Public Event Support

Staying Sharp When Disasters Are Few & Far Between

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Here's the Problem …

- Disasters don't frequent our area;
- We don't apply our emcomm skills to regular disasters;
- When disasters do strike, they're really humdingers (think subduction zone earthquake, volcanic eruption); ergo,
- Our emcomm skills get rusty.

What to Do?

- Participate in supporting public events (aka disasters by appointment):
  - Bicycle races
  - Running races
  - Walk-a-thons
  - Fairs and parades
- Public events comprise many of the elements of major disasters!

Our Mission

- To serve our client, the event sponsor
- To support the event participants
- To exercise skills that we'll use in a disaster – public event support is <u>the</u> best activity for disaster preparedness
- To keep everyone safe and healthy
- To play with radios

EmComm Skills

- Relaying tactical messages quickly & accurately
- Functioning as a team player within our client organization
- Listening: 50% of communication
- Brevity and clarity
- Calm and steady
- Knowledge of radio modes & protocols

What You Are Not:

- A First Responder
- In authority
- In charge
- A jack-of-all-trades

Public Event Types

- Bicycle races
- Running races
- Walk-a-thons
- Parades
- Fairs & Celebrations

Organization & Support

- Municipal authorities
- Private organizations (clubs)
- National organizations
- Structure:
  - Overall Event Coordinator
  - Support / volunteer coordinator
  - Sometimes the event will provide food and water, but generally you support yourself

Where Do I Fit In?

- You're a newbie; where do you serve?
- Be yourself, volunteer, and let others know that this is your first event
- There is always room for volunteers who don't yet have experience
- Ask questions and ask to be associated with a more experienced ham if you're really anxious about your capabilities

Emergency Worker Program

- Provides liability and loss coverage
- WAC 118-04 applies to workers and volunteers for disasters, search & rescue, training events
- Formal request for a mission number
- Mission number grants program coverage
- Workers must be registered, but temporary registration is allowed

Mission Number

- A mission number is issued by the Washington Emergency Management Division, Camp Murray, WA
- A mission number accords volunteers protection from liability and loss under the Emergency Worker Program
- You must register on an EMD-024 and have your name on form EMD-078

Worker Responsibilities

- Notify an official if you've used a drug that may impair your performance
- Workers shall have a valid operator's license if operating a vehicle or radio
- Workers shall have vehicle insurance
- Workers shall abide by all traffic laws
- Check in and complete recordkeeping

Event Issues

- Primary event frequency may be repeater based, depending upon topography
- Use a simplex frequency for subnets
- Have a backup frequency plan
- Issues may take time and consultation to resolve; please be patient!
- Maintain an activity/message log
- Communication is tactical, not formal

Programming Your Radio

- Know how to program your radio
- Net Control may direct you to another frequency
- Know how to get out of Memory Mode to VFO mode, how to set the power level, how to set the CTCSS and save it
- Pre-program event frequencies

Tactical Call Signs

- Public events use tactical call signs:
  - Mobile 5
  - First Aid 2
  - Gooden Elementary School Rest Stop
- Use your FCC call sign only at the end of a conversation (you won't be on the air 10 minutes to give your call during)

Logging

- Accidents happen. In a public event an accident may turn into:
  - A criminal indictment, or
  - A lawsuit
- An Activity Log may become a legal court document
- On the time and events as they occur
  - Lined paper
  - Tablet, notebook computer, or laptop

Activity Logs

- Sometimes Net Control maintains the only log, sometimes everyone does
- Use carbon paper to create a copy or just a small spiral notebook
- Give Activity Log copy to Net Control at the end of the event
- Keep the original for your files
- Use local time
- Log your activity and communications

Activity Log Header

< Your name and Call Sign >

Time In: _____ Time Out: _____ Total Time: _____ hrs

Odometer Start: _____ Odometer End: _____

Event: _____ Date: _____

Event Location: _____

Mission #: _____ Page ___ of ___

TIME ACTIVITY

Incident Reports

- Location, date, time
- Incident type (injury, illness, violence)
- Name of injured, bib #, age, sex, home address, phone, helmet?
- Nature of incident, witnesses and their statements
- Professional responders called?
- Was gear transported? Where?

Confidentiality on the Air

- Don’t transmit names or other personal information with accident reports
  - OK: Male, 43, with head injury
  - Not OK: Jane Modoc, 32 Main St, Diarrhea
- If necessary, use a cell phone to maintain confidentiality and avoid violating HIPAA rules
- Severe injuries can and do occur

First Aid

- Washington has a Good Samaritan Law
  - You will be protected from suit or indictment if you inadvertently injure while administering reasonable first aid and comfort
  - Never exceed the limits of your training
- Make bandages, pain and antiseptic sprays available to participants if needed, but do NOT dispense medicine
- Always get permission to assist

Net Control

- Each radio operator will need to use the radio and maintain a comm log
- Trade off every hour
- In a pile-up, control the air by asking everyone but one operator to stand by
- Have a master list of participant names and bib numbers

What Goes on in Net Control?

- Net Control is handling input from event officials, calls from hams, medical emergencies, and face-to-face contacts
- Logging traffic is constant
- Cell phones are in frequent use
- Event participants frequently try to locate their friends or family through net control
- Volunteers are checking in and out

Exercise 1: Net Control

- Multiple ham parade monitors checking in, reporting heat-related injuries, and asking for direction
- There are two nets: one parade and one medical
- There are 2 cell phones for medical emergencies and an 800MHz radio for EMTs
- You're in charge; what do you do?

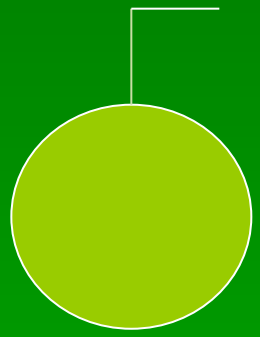
Racing Events

- May use multiple nets and net controls
- Cover large geographic areas
- Volunteer positions to fill:
  - Mobile SAGs
  - Rest stop and safety monitors
  - Mobile First Aid responders
  - Net Control: loggers, radio operators
  - Lead and sweep vehicles

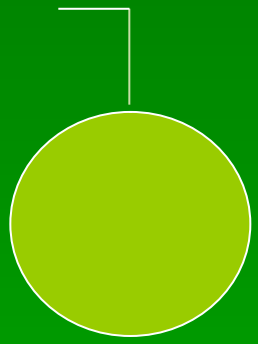
Race Jargon & Slang

- SAG
- Tactical call sign
- Dan Henry
- Command Net, Subnet
- Bib number
- Mileage tic chart

Dan Henry Arrows



Right Turn



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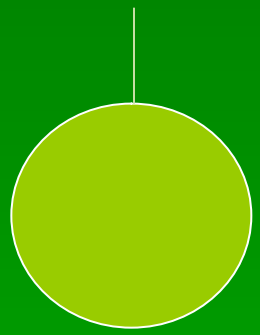
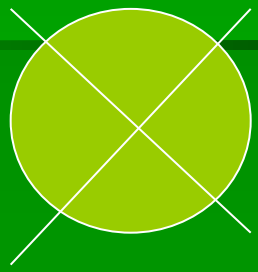
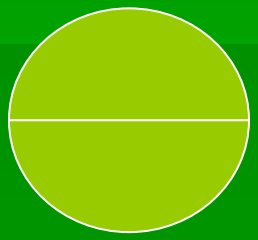


Go Straight



Wrong Way



Caution

SAG Equipment

- Dual-band radios, extra battery for H-T
- Clipboard, pen or pencil, Activity Log
- Food and water
- Event map with routes marked
- Event radio frequency list
- Vehicle identification placard
- Bicycle rack & tools, as appropriate

SAG versus Stationary

- SAG operators are mobile
  - Must navigate and drive
  - May be flagged down
- Rest/Mechanical/First Aid Operators
  - Will serve as primary communications
  - May be asked for repair tools or transport
  - May support/interact with police or fire

Additional Equipment

- Strobes for car
- Sidewalk chalk
- Blue painter's tape
- Mallet for signs
- Candy/Food bars
- Sunscreen
- Water and cooler
- First aid kit
- Bike pump for Presta valves
- Tire repair kit
- Bike tools
- Bike carrier
- Rags
- Zip ties & bungies
- APRS

SAG Operator

- Mobile-capable ham often equipped with repair and/or transport equipment
- Monitor the route, check in with net control, respond when requested
- Shifts may last 12 hours. Be prepared!
- You’re an assist vehicle and an extension of the whole service system

SAG
11

KENWOOD

STOP
4-WAY
BROOKLYN
FLETCHER BAY
RADIO
SUPPORT

KENWOOD

SAG Duties

- Cruise the course, backwards or forwards
- Assist participants who may flag you down or as Net Control directs you
- Check in regularly with net control
- Maintain an activity log
- If you leave your vehicle, let Net Control know

Injuries & Breakdowns

- Let people do their own bike repairs
- Monitor food & water at rest stops to re-supply before it becomes an emergency
- Many participants will wave at you to say “hi!” while others, who need help, don’t indicate so very clearly

Exercise 2: Injury

- Bicyclist crashes, helmet is cracked, friends are on-scene
- SAG arrives on-scene
  - Assess the situation
  - Professional responder assistance needed?
- Complete a Situation Report
  - Interview injured
  - Interview witnesses

Parades

- Both mobile and stationary clients
- Lost kids, heat-related injuries, people asking for directions to get in or out
- Positions to be filled by volunteers:
  - Route monitors
  - First aid station communicators
  - Celebrity shadows
  - “Information” givers for audience

Fairs & Celebrations

- Limited geographic coverage
- Information giving will be chief role
- Injuries and lost kids
- A single net control is usually sufficient
- Some hams will be at stationary sites like first aid, lost & found, event headquarters
- Other hams will be roving or celebrity shadows

Gear for Parades & Fairs

- H-T with extra battery and clip mic
- What kind of antenna? (hint: low power)
- Map and agenda of fair events
- List of first aid, lost & found contacts
- Water, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- “Emergency Communications” vest and ID badge
- Pocket spiral notebook for Activity Log